



**District of Columbia
Water and Sewer Authority**



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**
Baltimore District

NEWS RELEASE

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CONTACT: Michele Quander-Collins
D.C. Water and Sewer Authority
(202) 787-2200
CONTACT: Thomas P. Jacobus
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
(202) 764-2753

District Drinking Water Supplier Changes Water Chemistry **Washington Aqueduct Temporarily Changes Disinfectant**

Washington, D.C. — For one month, April 7, 2007, through May 7, 2007, citizens in the District of Columbia may notice a slight chlorine taste and odor in their drinking water due to a temporary change in the disinfectant that is added at the water treatment plant. The Washington Aqueduct, a division of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which treats the water, will switch the disinfectant from chloramines to chlorine during this one-month period.

The temporary change in water chemistry does not affect drinking water safety. **Consumers who take special precautions to remove chlorine from tap water such as dialysis centers, medical facilities or aquatic pet owners should take note of this temporary addition of chlorine in the water treatment process and act accordingly.**

- If you use a kidney dialysis machine in your home, contact your dialysis center in order to make any modifications to your dialysis machine.
- If you own aquatic pets, you may want to contact a pet supply store to ensure proper use of de-chlorination chemicals.

The periodic disinfectant change is an industry-wide practice to help keep water mains clean and free of harmful bacteria. This process along with the District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority's (WASA's) vigorous flushing program helps loosen sediments that may accumulate in the distribution system.

Customers may notice a slight, temporary discoloration of the water. This temporary discoloration will not affect water safety. Simply run the faucet until the water is clear. In the unlikely event your water is discolored and remains cloudy after flushing, please contact WASA's Water Quality Division at (202) 612-3440 Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., or (202) 612-3400, 24 hours a day for assistance.

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<http://www.dcwasa.com>
<http://www.nab.usace.army.mil>